



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 491

February Session, 2012

Substitute House Bill No. 5521

House of Representatives, April 17, 2012

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. MORIN of the 28th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF ELECTRONIC OR DIGITAL METHODS OF COMMUNICATION IN LIEU OF MAILED COMMUNICATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of
2 Administrative Services shall study the feasibility of amending the
3 general statutes to permit any state agency, quasi-public agency,
4 political subdivision of the state or business entity to send
5 communications using digital or electronic mail instead of by first class
6 or United States mail, provided the intended recipient of any such
7 communication has opted to receive communications electronically or
8 digitally. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, (1) the
9 implications of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National
10 Commerce Act 15 USC 96 and chapter 15 of the general statutes on
11 such communications, (2) methods to avoid infringing upon the due
12 process rights of the intended recipient, and (3) methods for the sender
13 to verify receipt of digital or electronic communications. In conducting

14 such study the department shall solicit the input of interested parties,
15 including, but not limited to, town clerks, representatives of state
16 residents who receive benefits from the Department of Social Services
17 and providers of digital or electronic mail services.

18 (b) Not later than January 1, 2013, the department shall submit its
19 recommendations concerning such study, in accordance with the
20 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, including a list of
21 the general statutes that the department finds appropriate to amend to
22 permit the use of digital or electronic mail, to the joint standing
23 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
24 relating to government administration.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 13 \$	FY 14 \$
Dept. of Administrative Services	GF - Cost	Less than \$150,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill would result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) as it currently does not have the staffing resources required by the broad scope of this study. DAS would likely require a consultant in order to meet the reporting deadline of January 1, 2013. The cost of the consultant would likely be determined following a request for proposal process, but is not anticipated to exceed \$150,000.

The Out Years

As the study is required to be completed by January 1, 2013, there would be no out years cost.

Sources: Department of Administrative Services

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5521

***AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF ELECTRONIC OR DIGITAL
METHODS OF COMMUNICATION IN LIEU OF MAILED
COMMUNICATIONS.***

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/29/2012)